

General District Court

The Honorable Lisa A. Mayne, Chief Judge
Colin McDonald, Court Services Director



General District Court (GDC)



Role in Public Safety



Equity in bail and sentencing



Trends



Challenges

GDC Role in Public Safety: Judges



Make important and informed bond decisions

- Felonies pending preliminary hearing + Class 1 & 2 Misdemeanors
- Judiciary relies on Court Services' information as to threat, flight risk, effectiveness of prior services
- Bond and/or supervision in lieu of incarceration
- Improves access to services, can maintain employment and family obligations
- Improves outcomes



GDC Role in Public Safety: Judges



Judicial oversight

- Clerk's Office executes order and provides extensive customer service to citizens
- Court Services monitors compliance with order and promptly notifies Judge of alleged violations
- Improved outcomes



Initiative: Supervised Release Program (SRP) violation review docket

- ✓ Many Diversion First clients
- ✓ CSB present
- ✓ Judge reviews SRP report and recommendations from CSB, Commonwealth's Attorney and Defense Attorney
- ✓ Judge can prod client to get services and can revoke bond



GDC Role in Public Safety: Judges



Adjudicate cases in a fair and timely fashion

- Justice delayed is justice denied
- Expedited and reduced number of hearings
- Less time incarcerated
- Improved citizen outcomes



Initiative: DWI Arraignment & Information on Attorney Dates

- ✓ Reduce number of hearings to expedite case resolution



Initiative: Felony Preliminary Hearing Update

- ✓ Reduce number of continuances to expedite case resolution after stakeholder meetings



GDC Role in Public Safety: Judges



Effective and informed sentencing reduces recidivism

- Judiciary relies on record of prior effective services
- Commonwealth's Attorney and Defense Attorney are more informed of pertinent circumstances
- Craft effective sentencing
- Improve outcomes



NEW Initiative: Supervised Release Program (SRP) Reports

- ✓ Probation Officer and CSB prepare summary report
- ✓ Commonwealth's Attorney and Defense Attorney review and craft more effective sentences

Judicial oversight

- ✓ Existing program: Probation Violation Review



GDC Role in Public Safety: Pretrial Services



Conducts criminal record checks for courts, Police, Magistrate, others

- Provides critical information
- Improves bond and release decisions
- Allows police to return to street more quickly
- Improves outcomes

Investigates incarcerated defendants and makes bail/release recommendations to the judiciary

- Evidence based
- Critical to Judiciary to make informed bond decisions
- Assigns legal counsel to indigent defendants
- Improves outcomes



GDC Role in Public Safety: Pretrial Services



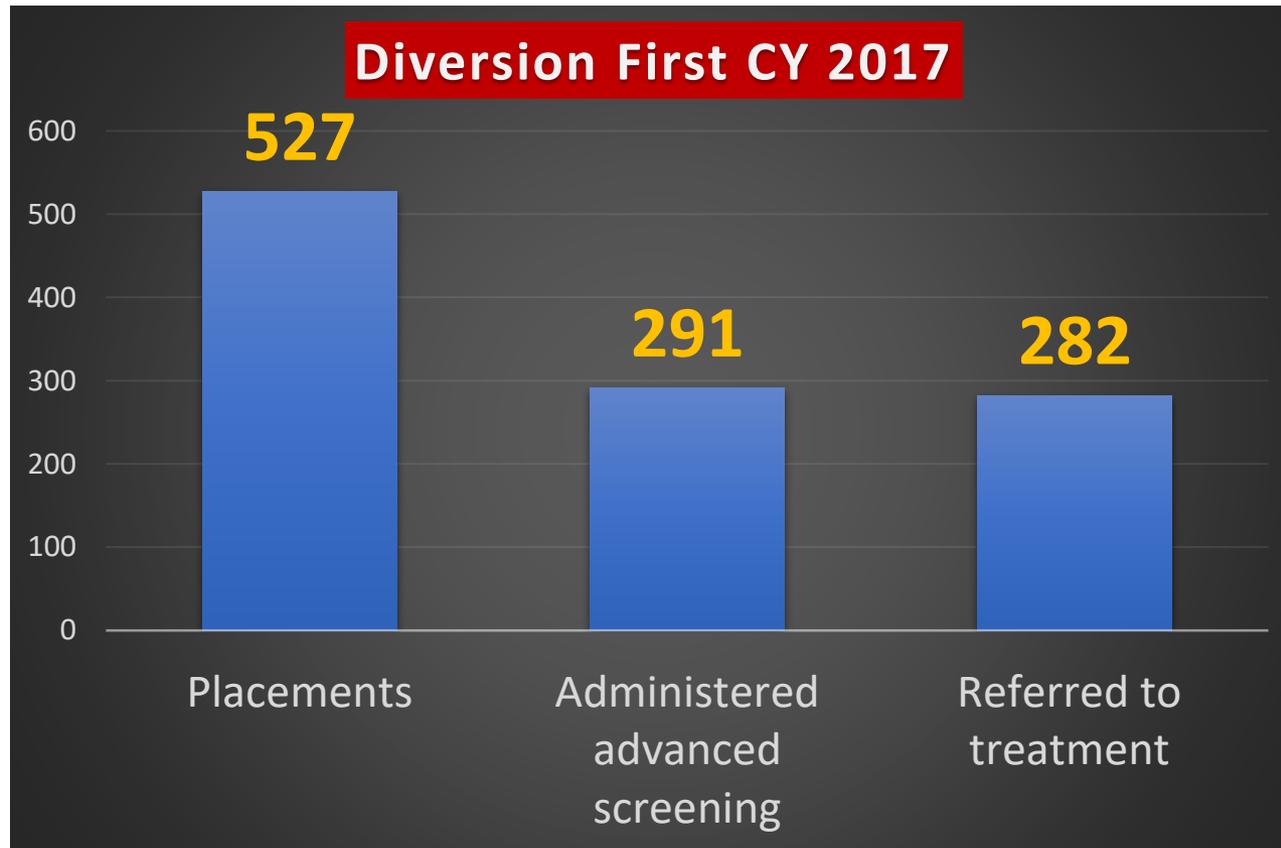
Provides intensive supervision (Diversion First)

- Alternative to incarceration
- Improves access to services
- Can maintain employment and family obligations
- Identification of mental health needs early in process
- Expedites access to services
- Reduces recidivism
- Improves outcomes

**DIVERSION
FIRST**



GDC Role in Public Safety: Pretrial Services



**DIVERSION
FIRST**





GDC Role in Public Safety: Pretrial Services

Provides pretrial supervision

- Alternative to incarceration
- Improves access to services, can maintain employment and family obligations
- Improves outcomes

**81%
growth
since FY
2014**

**Days of Supervision Provided
by GDC Pretrial Services**

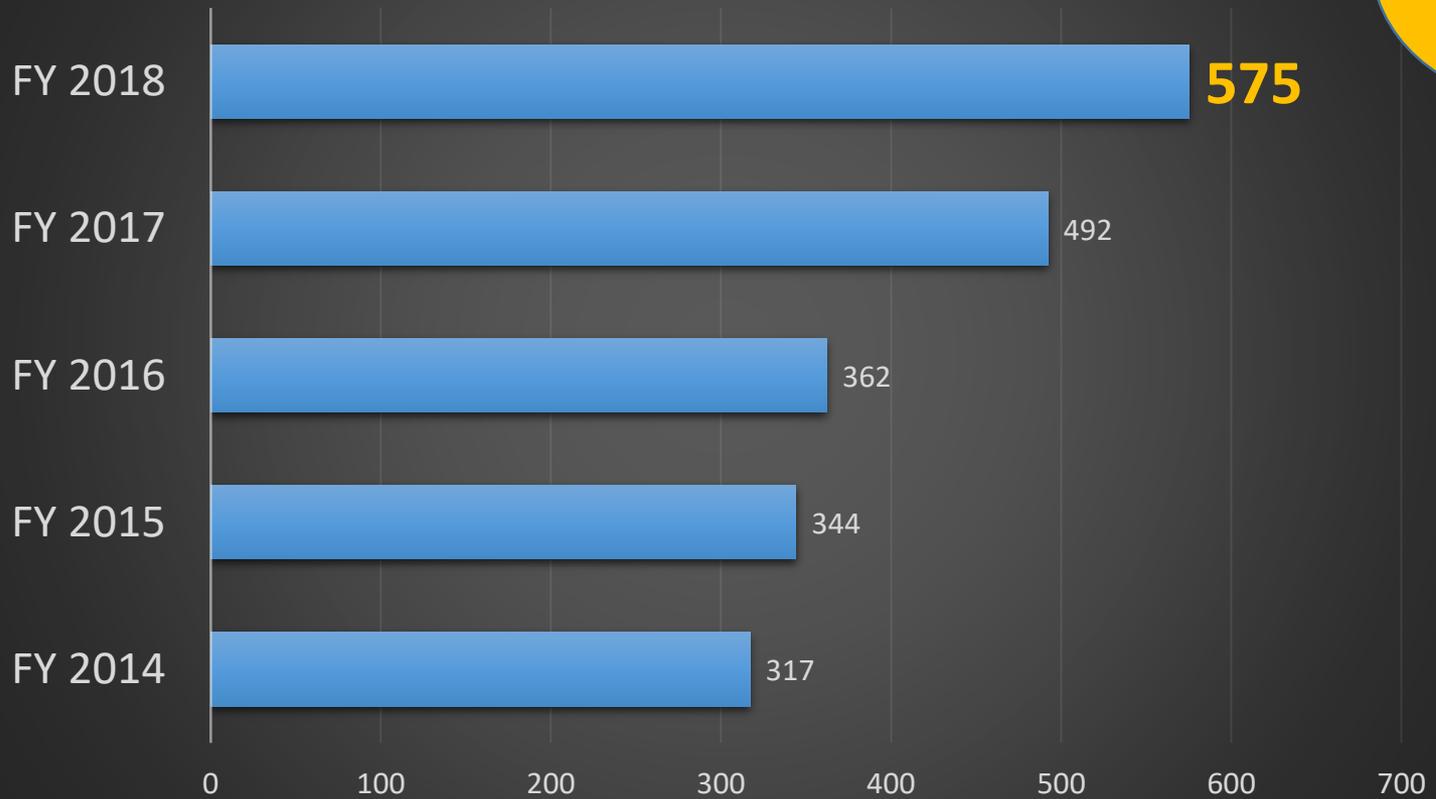


GDC Role in Public Safety: Pretrial Services



**81%
growth
since FY
2014**

GDC Pretrial Services Daily Caseload



GDC Role in Public Safety: Probation



Provides standard probation supervision

- Alternative to incarceration
- Post-trial supervision
- Improves access to services, can maintain employment and family obligations
- Reduces recidivism
- Improves outcomes



GDC Role in Public Safety: Probation



Assists probationers with requirements of driver's license reinstatement (Driving on Suspended Program)

- Post-trial supervision
- Reduces recidivism
- Improves outcomes



Supervises qualified Veterans seeking treatment (Veterans Treatment Docket)

- Structured for military service members with mentor component
- Reduces recidivism
- Improves outcomes



GDC Role in Public Safety: Probation



Supervises qualified alcohol offenders (Alcohol Diversion Program)

- For young adult population, client in the community
- Similar to restorative justice
- Reduces recidivism
- Improves outcomes



GDC Role in Public Safety: Other Services



Assigns court appointed attorneys

- Provides legal representation to qualified indigent defendants



Assigns foreign language interpreters

- Improves access to justice for non-English speaking population



Manages Volunteer & Intern Program

- Assists court and is cost effective
- Assists citizens in courthouse
- Connects community to the court



Equity in Bail and Sentencing



Provides the judiciary with alternatives to incarceration

- Pretrial defendants and post-trial offenders

Use of validated instruments

- Pretrial defendants and post-trial offenders
- Race and gender neutral
- Informed judiciary of risk level to improve bail and sentencing decisions
- VPRAI-R, PRAXIS, M/OST, OST, BJMHS



Trends



- More informed Judiciary
- More objectivity in bail determination
- Increase in effective community supervision
- Improved access to treatment
- Improved interagency communication
- Improved outcomes



Challenges



- Lack of Probation Officers to provide community supervision
- Courthouse office space to provide confidential client meetings
- Services to meet needs of programs
- Unfunded state mandates

